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green. Perhaps, like Ruskin, we should give the palm to the "Milky opals that gleam and shine like sullen fires in a pallid mist."¹

Vitality of Mollusca.—Prof. HEILPRIN called attention to a remarkable case of vitality among certain members of the fauna of the New Jersey coast. Specimens of *Nassa obsoleta* collected by Miss Emma Walter, at Atlantic City just one year ago, and retained dry during the entire year of their accidental captivity, were stated to be still alive, although subjected for several months to the abnormal temperature occasioned by proximity to a heated wall surface. This, the speaker contended, was perhaps the most extraordinary instance of vitality known among the marine mollusca, although among the terrestrial and freshwater forms, especially among those which undergo a partial hibernation, longer periods of semi-adaptation to imposed conditions have been noted. Instances of such survivals were cited by the speaker and Prof. Leidy.

JUNE 15.

Mr. JOHN H. REDFIELD in the chair.

Twenty-two persons present.

JUNE 22.

Mr. THOS. MEEHAN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Thirteen persons present.

A paper, entitled "Notes on the Paspali of Le Conte's Monograph," by Geo. Vasey, was presented for publication.

Note on Quercus dentata.—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN exhibited specimens of *Quercus dentata* with female flowers, from a specimen raised from an acorn received from Japan ten years ago. It is of very rapid growth, being now eighteen feet high, and six inches in circumference. So recently as the issue of the volume of *De Candolle's Prodromus*, it was noted that the fruit was unknown. Some account of these female flowers might have an interest. Like our annual fruited oaks the flowers appear at the end of the young growth, in pairs on peduncles about half an

¹ The speaker had collected at the opal mines a number of specimens of minute bright white rhombohedrons showing the basal planes; these have been examined by Prof. E. S. Dana, who pronounces them alunite. Well crystallized alunite is not common, and he believed this is the first time its appearance has been noted in North America.